



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2017

**77TH ANNUAL COLUMBUS SPRING PILGRIMAGE CELEBRATES
SPLENDOR OF ANTEBELLUM HOMES, OFFERS FUN FOR WHOLE
FAMILY**

The arrival of spring heralds the return of warmer weather, beautiful floral blooms, and Columbus' premier event, the annual Spring Pilgrimage. This year's celebration takes place over 10 days – from March 30 - April 8– and will feature tours of resplendent antebellum mansions, gardens and churches as well as recreated activities of the 1800s and exquisite period costumes, inspiring events, heart-pumping races and culinary delights.



“Initiated in 1940 and now in its 77th year, the Columbus Spring Pilgrimage has been recognized as one of the best and most authentic home tours in the South and has again been named a “Top 20 Event in the Southeast” for 2017”, said Nancy Carpenter, Executive Director of the Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation and the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau. “We are proud to welcome thousands of local, national and international guests to experience our exemplary historic home tours and unparalleled hospitality.”

Spring Pilgrimage will feature traditional programs and activities, including a garden party, carriage rides, and Tales From the Crypt as well as new favorites, such as a Half Marathon Race and 5K Run.

The 10th Annual “Catfish in the Alley©” event, returns on April 1st. This event – named ‘Editors’ Choice’ by *Garden and Gun Magazine* – features a day of fun for the whole family, including vendors, fabulous food, cold beverages and some of the best blues musicians in the South, including the Terry “Harmonica” Bean One-man Band from Pontotoc, Big Joe Shelton from Columbus, and Grady Champion and his Blues Band from Canton. All of the musicians have performed throughout Mississippi, the South and in several European countries.

The Spring Pilgrimage will also feature a special book-signing event at the Tennessee Williams Home and Welcome Center on April 2. Guests will have the opportunity to meet Mississippi author Laurie Parker, author of *Trespassers Talking*. Complimentary refreshments will be served and signed copies of books will be available for purchase.

Whether you’re interested in architecture, history, the arts, culinary traditions – or all of the above, Pilgrimage has something for everyone! View a complete listing of special events below.

2017 COLUMBUS SPRING PILGRIMAGE SPECIAL EVENTS

Kickoff Party

Thursday, March 30 / 5 – 8 pm
Crawfish and shrimp boil, live music
Tennessee Williams Home and Welcome
Center Lawn, 300 Main Street

Half Marathon and 5K Run

Saturday, April 1 / 7 am and 7:15 am
Starting at the Tennessee Williams
Home and Welcome Center, 300 Main
Street
Additional information and registration
available
at www.columbushalfmarathon5k.com

Catfish in the Alley ©

Saturday, April 1 / 10 am – 3pm
Enjoy fresh fried catfish and live blues
music in Columbus’ historic Catfish Alley
Catfish Alley, downtown Columbus

Artisans Alley

Saturday, April 1 / 10am – 3pm
Handcrafted period articles and
homemade food items
Catfish Alley, downtown Columbus

Mayor’s Unity Picnic

Saturday, April 1/ 4 pm
Music, food and fellowship for all! Event is free and open to the public.
Columbus Riverwalk, 117 Moores Creek Road



Book Signing

Saturday, April 2 / 2pm – 4pm

Meet Mississippi author Laurie Parker. Autographed copies of books will be available for purchase

Tennessee Williams Home and Welcome Center, 300 Main Street

Tales from the Crypt

March 31, April 3, 5, and 7 / 7 – 10 pm

Graveyard tour that re-creates the lives of noted personalities interred at the historic cemetery

Friendship Cemetery

Carriage Rides

March 30, 31, April 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 / 9 am – until

Sunday noon- until

Garden Party

Saturday, April 8 / 3 – 6 pm

Stroll through Colonnade Garden with mint juleps and cheese straws (\$15 admission)

Colonnade Garden, 620 Second Street South

About the Columbus Spring Pilgrimage

The Columbus Spring Pilgrimage is an annual project of the Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation and the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau and is made possible by the gracious hospitality of participating homeowners and the generous support of local businesses that serve as “Friends of the Foundation.”

About the Columbus-Lowndes County Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau (CCVB) is dedicated to building a positive image of Columbus through tourism, convention development, major events, and through marketing the community to an international audience. Stay up to date on what’s happening in Columbus and at the CCVB by visiting our [website](#), and by following us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

###

For media contact only

Nancy Carpenter, CEO

Executive Director

Columbus Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau and
Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation

Cell: [\(662\) 574-2036](tel:6625742036)

Office: [\(662\) 329-1191](tel:6623291191)

nancy@visitcolumbusms.org

###